

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a contact structure for a semiconductor device, said semiconductor device having a contact window defined in an oxide layer, and a plug filled in said contact window, said method comprising steps of:

removing some of said oxide layer to make the plug protrude;

oxidizing the exposed region of the protruding portion of the plug to form an oxidized portion; and

removing the oxidized portion of the plug so as to decrease an area of the top surface of the plug.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of forming a first dielectric layer on the plug ~~being that has~~ undergone said step of removing the oxidized portion, and on the oxide layer ~~being that has~~ undergone said step of removing some of said oxide layer, wherein the upper surface of the plug ~~being that has~~ undergone said step of removing the oxidized portion is exposed.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising a step of performing planarization after the first dielectric layer is formed.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a conducting wire and conducting wire contact structure for a semiconductor device, said semiconductor device having a contact window defined in an oxide layer, and a plug filled in said contact window, said method comprising steps of:

removing some of said oxide layer to make the plug protrude;
oxidizing the exposed region of the protruding portion of the plug to form an oxidized portion;

removing the oxidized portion of the plug so as to decrease an area of the top surface of the plug;

forming a first dielectric layer on the upper surface of the entire structure generated from the above steps, wherein the upper surface of the plug is exposed;

forming a second dielectric layer on the upper surface of said first dielectric layer including the upper surface of the plug; and

forming a conducting wire in said second dielectric layer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said step of forming the conducting wire includes coating photoresist on said second dielectric layer, forming a trench of a predetermined ~~patterns~~ pattern in said second dielectric layer by exposing, developing and etching; and filling metal in the trench to form a conducting wire.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising a step of performing planarization after said forming step for the first dielectric layer.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said first dielectric layer and said second dielectric layer are of different materials.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said first dielectric layer and said second dielectric layer are of the same material.